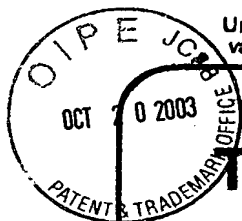


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PTO/SB/21 (8-98)
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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number | 10/642,793 |
| Filing Date | August 18, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Mark H. Opfer |
| Group Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 03052 |

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 6

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

| | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | Postcard and 4 References |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | Remarks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.62 or 1.63 | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

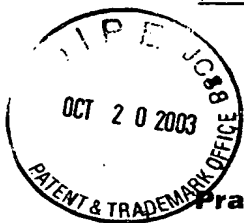
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|-------------------------|---|
| Firm or Individual name | James F. Porcello, Jr. Emch, Schaffer, Schaub & Porcello Co., L.P.A. |
| Signature | |
| Date | October 14, 2003 |

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| Typed or printed name | Barbara A. Myers |
| Signature | |
| Date | 10/15/03 |

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Practitioner's Docket No. 03052

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent application

of _____

Inventor(s)

for _____

Title of invention

the specification of which is being transmitted herewith

OR

In re application of: Mark H. Opfer

Application No.: 010 / 642,793 Group No.:

Filed: August 18, 2003 Examiner:

For: SINGLE DRIVE CENTRIFUGAL
SEPARATORAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT****CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10***(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
Express Mail certification is optional.)

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Barbara A. Myers

(type or print name of person certifying)

Date: 10/14/03

(Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 1 of 6)

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant within any one of the following time periods:

(1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);

(2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application;

(3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or

(4) Before the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114."

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

NOTE: "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) each inventor named in the application;

(2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).

NOTE: The "duty as described in § 1.56 will be met so long as the information in question was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98 before issuance of the patent." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13 -25 at 17.

WARNING: "No information disclosure statement may be filed in a provisional application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(d).

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections and number pages consecutively)

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements
2. ☒ FORMS PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly FORM PTO-1449)
3. ☐ Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. ☐ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. ☐ Cumulative Patents or Publications
6. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement
7. ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
 - 7A. ☐ EPO Search Report
 - 7B. ☐ English Language Version of EPO Search Report
8. ☐ Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
9. ☐ Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
10. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

(complete the following, if appropriate)

Sections _____, respectively, have been continued on ADDED PAGE(S).

NOTE: "Once the minimum requirements are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 37).

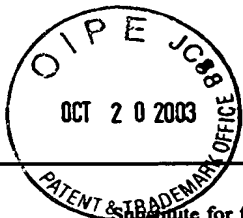
(Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 2 of 6)

Section 1. Preliminary statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.



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| <p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p> | | | | Complete if Known | | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/642,793 | |
| | | | | Filing Date | August 18, 2003 | |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Mark H. Opfer | |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | | |
| Examiner Name | | | | | | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 03052 | | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | | | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passag or Relevant Figures App |
| | | Number/Kind Code (if known) | | | |
| | | US- 5,916,082 | 06-29-1999 | Opfer | |
| | | US- 6,149,573 | 11-21-2000 | Berger et al. | |
| | | US- 6,224,532 | 05-01-2001 | Beattey | |
| | | US- 6,478,724 | 11-12-2002 | Beattey | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) requires that any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97 shall include:
"A legible copy of:

- (i) Each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent;
- (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed;
- (iii) For each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or that portion of the application which caused it to be listed including any claims directed to that portion. . ."

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☐ Exception(s) to above:
- ☐ Items in prior application, from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
 - ☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

(Information Disclosure Statement—Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying
This Statement [6-1]—page 5 of 6)

Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

The person making this statement is

(check each applicable item)

- (a) ☐ the inventor(s) who signs below

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

(type name of inventor who is signing)

- (b) ☐ an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

(type name of inventor who is signing)

- (c) ☒ the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information:

(check each applicable item)

- ☒ supplied by the inventor(s).
☒ supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application. (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))
☒ in the practitioner's file.

Reg. No.: 29,425

Tel. No.: (419) 243-1294

Customer No.: 20879

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

James F. Porcello, Jr.

(type or print name of practitioner)

P.O. Box 916

P.O. Address

Toledo, Ohio 43697-0916

(Information Disclosure Statement—Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 16 of 16)